

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CARACA 01603 102223Z

61

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07

COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 AID-05 IGA-02 /072 W

----- 011845

P 102152Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1949

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 1603

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, VE

SUBJECT: VENEZUELAN DEFENSE MINISTRY INVESTIGATING ALLEGED  
BRIBES BY LOCKHEED AIRCRAFT OFFICIALS

SUMMARY. CARACAS PRESS REPORTS THAT LOCKHEED AIRCRAFT  
ATTEMPTED TO BRIBE GOV OFFICIALS. GOV SPOKESMAN HAS  
RESPONDED THAT PURCHASES FROM LOCKHEED WERE CARRIED OUT  
IN STRICTLY LEGAL FASHION. VENEZUELAN AIR FORCE OFFICER  
INVESTIGATING BRIBERY CHARGES HAS INFORMED EMBASSY DEFENSE  
ATTACHE THAT VENEZUELAN AIR FORCE HAS YET TO UNCOVER ANY  
WRONGDOING.  
END SUMMARY.

1. CARACAS DAILY EL NACIONAL ON FEBRUARY 9 GAVE FRONT-  
PAGE COVERAGE TO AP REPORT FROM BOGOTA THAT  
ACCORDING TO LOCKHEED "DOCUMENTS" PUBLISHED IN COLOMBIAN  
NEWSPAPER EL TIEMPO, LOCKHEED AIRCRAFT CORPORATION HAS USED  
BRIBES IN AN EFFORT TO SELL VARIOUS AIRCRAFT TO THE  
VENEZUELAN AIR FORCE. ACCORDING TO THE AP REPORT, THESE  
"DOCUMENTS" REVEALED THAT THE COMPANY GAVE VENEZUELAN  
LT. COL. J.M. LAURENTIN AND HIS FAMILY AN ALL-EXPENSES-  
PAID TRIP TO DISNEY WORLD.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 CARACA 01603 102223Z

2. THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE DAILY JOURNAL ON FEBRUARY 10 ADDED

THAT THE VENEZUELAN MINISTRY OF DEFENSE HAD INSTIGATED AN INVESTIGATION INTO THESE ALLEGED BRIBES. THE DAILY JOURNAL QUOTED SECRETARY TO THE PRESIDENCY SCHACHT AS STATING, "AS FAR AS I KNOW AND ACCORDING TO INFORMATION I HAVE OBTAINED, THE VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT HAS PURCHASED ONLY HERCULES PLANES FROM THAT AMERICAN COMPANY, AN OPERATION THAT WAS CARRIED OUT UNDER STRICT FULFILLMENT OF LEGAL NORMS."

3. A KNOWLEDGEABLE SENIOR VENEZUELAN AIR FORCE OFFICER INFORMED EMBASSY DEFENSE ATTACHE ON FEBRUARY 9 THAT THE VENEZUELAN AIR FORCE WAS INVESTIGATING THESE CHARGES, BUT THAT THERE APPEARED TO BE NO EVIDENCE OF WRONGDOING. ACCORDING TO THIS VENEZUELAN SOURCE, COL. LAURENTIN HAD ONLY BEEN INVITED TO JOIN A GROUP OF LOCKHEED EMPLOYEES WHO WERE ALREADY SCHEDULED TO VISIT DISNEY WORLD ON A COMPANY-SPONSORED TRIP. THIS VENEZUELAN OFFICER SAW NOTHING UNUSUAL OR ILLEGAL ABOUT LAURENTIN'S ACCEPTANCE OF THIS INVITATION.

4. COMMENT: ONLY SALE OF LOCKHEED AIRCRAFT HERE IN RECENT YEARS WAS GOV PURCHASE OF SIX C-130H "HERCULES" AIR TRANSPORTS. GOV BOUGHT FOUR OF THESE IN 1971, THE REMAINING TWO IN 1975.

5. HOPEFULLY SCHACHT'S STATEMENT WILL PREVENT BRIBERY ALLEGATION ISSUE FROM BUDDING INTO A MAJOR PUBLIC SCANDAL. EMBASSY WILL REPORT PROMPTLY ANY FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS.

END COMMENT.  
SHLAUDEMAN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** BRIBERY, PRESS COMMENTS, INVESTIGATIONS, ALLEGATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 10 FEB 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** coburnhl  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976CARACA01603  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760050-0951  
**From:** CARACAS  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760265/aaaacexx.tel  
**Line Count:** 92  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION ARA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** coburnhl  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 19 JUL 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <19 JUL 2004 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <26 OCT 2004 by coburnhl>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** VENEZUELAN DEFENSE MINISTRY INVESTIGATING ALLEGED BRIBES BY LOCKHEED AIRCRAFT OFFICIALS  
**TAGS:** PFOR, MASS, VE, LOCKHEED AIRCRAFT CORP  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006